

Department of  
Water Supply, Gas and Electricity  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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ANNUAL REPORT *for* 1917

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WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Commissioner

## MAINTENANCE, OPERATION AND EXTENSION OF THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.

*Reservoirs:* The change from the Brooklyn to the Catskill supply did not change the utilization of the Brooklyn reservoirs or the Mt. Prospect tower. Ridgewood reservoir has been continued as the equalizing basin for the low service, with Mt. Prospect reservoir performing a similar function for the intermediate service and Mt. Prospect Tower for the high service. Water is delivered from the Catskill system directly into the Ridgewood reservoir throughout the 24 hours, the average amount delivered being approximately 50 m.g.d. The remaining 65 m.g. utilized in the low service area, is delivered directly from the Catskill shaft and delivery mains into the distribution mains.

*Repair companies.* There are four repair companies assigned to the borough of Brooklyn. At three of these, night emergency men are stationed, but at the fourth, known as the Eastern District repair company, no night men are available. The Board of Estimate was requested to allow force for this purpose, but failed to accede to the department's request. A larger force for night emergency work is required in Brooklyn, as frequently no men have been available at the repair yard due to the force having been called out for emergencies. A small gang of three men is held at the Western district yard, to respond to all second alarm and larger fires. Even this gang has frequently been called out to meet emergencies other than fires.

*Breaks in trunk mains:* There have been twelve breaks in large trunk mains during the year.

*Utilization of the Catskill Supply:* As previously stated, Croton water was sent to Brooklyn through the Catskill tunnel from January 1, to January 22. On this date the Catskill supply was introduced. The amount drawn was increased until finally, on March 31 practically the entire supply for Brooklyn was obtained from the Catskill tunnel. Catskill water, under gravity head, is delivered at sufficient elevation to supply the high service, the intermediate service and the low service. The water is taken from three shafts, the greater part of the supply being taken from the two terminal shafts, one in Fort Greene park just east of St. Edwards street, and the other at the intersection of Flatbush and 3d avenues. The pressure at which the water is delivered is controlled by the operation of valves and through pressure control valves. In general, the introduction of the Catskill supply has improved pressures although no material change has occurred. No difficulty was experienced in the introduction and utilization of the Catskill supply, the method to be followed having been carefully planned before the water was available.

*Blythebourne Water Company:* The Blythebourne Water Company is a private company supplying about 3,000 taps or say 15,000 consumers, in the territory known as Borough Park, Blythebourne and Bay Ridge. It commenced operations about 26 years ago and has a distribution system consisting of 154,500 feet of pipe, to which are connected 176 hydrants. The consumption of water averages about 1.9 m.g.d. Up to 1913, the city largely relied upon the Blythebourne Company for fire protection in this district.